

## CHURCH MATTERS.

## Religious Notices.

OWING to pressure of other matter we are obliged to omit the regular church notices this week.

AT CHRIST CHURCH on Christmas day there will be a service, with sermon, at 10:30 A. M. There will also be an early celebration of the Holy Communion at 8 o'clock. The offertory at both services will be for the Sunday-school. On the Sunday after Christmas, Dec. 30th, at the four o'clock service, the children will sing their carols, and make their offerings.

THE REV. W. G. SEE, late of Plattsburgh, Ulster Co., N. Y., has now moved into the parsonage of the Reformed Church, at Brookdale, which has been recently refitted and repainted. Mr. See is very heartily welcomed by the congregation, and preparations are being made for the installation at an early date. The coming of the new pastor and the usual holiday festivities have made the active ones very busy for some time past.

REV. W. H. BRODHEAD, of Woodside, whose instruction of the Teachers' Normal class in Bloomfield has been so satisfactory to all Bible students, has lately been invited to take the position of Sunday-school Secretary for the State of New York. Mr. Brodhead's acceptance is yet doubtful, but we learn that a handsome salary and the payment of current expenses go with the office, and the position is made by his own denomination, which is the Congregational. If any testimony to his fitness is needed, it can be had in Bloomfield with great ease.

OUR CATHOLIC FRIENDS intend giving particular effort to the Christmas celebration this year. On that festival there will be a solemn High Mass, and the "Crib" of the newly born Saviour will be opened for the inspection of the people. The figures of the shepherds standing by the crib, and the infant within it will be life size. The floral adornments will be particularly beautiful. The good pastor would be pleased to have the townspeople visit and see his pretty church, and this token of love to Him newly born. The church will be open until the feast of the Epiphany.

## Christmas Entertainments in the Sunday-schools.

The Berkeley Sunday-school will have their celebration on Christmas eve.

At Berkeley School Christmas eve will be observed with recitations, singing and a Christmas tree. The candies and oranges are expected to be on hand too.

The children of the M. E. Church will gather about a Christmas tree in the new chapel on Christmas night. Singing and recitations may be looked for from the young people.

At the Brookdale Reformed Church the Christmas entertainment will be held Christmas eve. It will consist of recitations by the scholars, singing, scriptural exhibition by Mr. G. T. Moore, of Bloomfield.

At Christ Church an entertainment will be provided for the children of the Sunday-school and of the parish in Christmas week. There will be presents from the Christmas tree, and a feast of good things.

The First Presbyterian Sunday-school will hold a Christmas service in the church on Sunday evening, to consist of singing, Scripture readings and addresses. On Wednesday evening a Sunday-school soiree will be held in the Sunday-school rooms, at which will be given recitations and singing by the Infant Class.

On Christmas evening the school children connected with the Church of the Sacred Heart will give their annual play, and a tree will be provided with a present on it for each and every one of the youngsters. It is needless to say their little hearts will go home happy, and the recollections of the day be pleasant and lasting. Merry Christmas to them!

The Westminster Sunday-school will have its Christmas festival on Friday evening, in the church. In addition to the exercises customary on such occasions, there will be a stereoscopic exhibition, after which will occur the usual distribution of goodies to the scholars. One of the features of the evening will be the receiving from the children, of contributions of toys of all sorts, old or new. These are to be sent to Castle Garden for distribution among the emigrant children.

The Christmas entertainment of the Hope Sunday-school will take place on Christmas eve. It will consist mainly of a stereoscopic exhibition, varied with recitations and singing by the children. The room will be handsomely trimmed with green, and an abundance of good things provided for the scholars. Admission will be had only by ticket, which will be complimentary, and given only to scholars, family friends and contributors to the support of the school. A Christmas service will be held on Sunday.

The Baptist Sabbath-school will hold their Christmas entertainment on Wednesday evening, December 26th. The programme of exercises will consist of recitation and singing by the scholars. The usual order followed from year to year will be deviated from somewhat. The Newark Orphan Asylum and the Howard Mission, of New York, will be remembered. Scholars are busy embroidering names on handkerchiefs, providing slates, writing books, stockings, etc., to be sent to the former, and gathering clothing, provisions and toys to be forwarded to the latter. Visiting parents and friends of the school can aid to the interest of the occasion by bringing as a present some article, either new or old, that can be made available in the unlimited field of Little Wanderers.

## History of Methodism in Bloomfield.

[The following paper was prepared and read by Rev. J. N. Crane, at the dedication of Park M. E. Chapel, Dec. 16, 1883.—EDS. (CITIZEN).]

It is cause of regret that in our sketch of the history of Methodism we cannot state where, when and by whom the first sermon was preached. And of still deeper regret that we have no record of the first society, by whom organized, and who constituted it.

It is probable there was preaching some time prior to 1818, for at this time it was a regular appointment of Bergen Circuit. Joseph Lybrand and Wm. Smith preachers. During the year Mr. Lybrand was removed from the circuit, and stationed at Newark.

Previous to this Newark was included in the Essex Circuit. It was customary in the early history of Methodism for the

preachers to enter every door that was opened to them, whether a private house or a school-house, preaching usually nearly every day, three weeks out of four. The fourth was called a rest week. On this large circuit, stretching from Newark to Haverstraw, and from fifteen to twenty miles back, there were only three or four churches. Belleville, Nyack and Haverstraw had each a small house of worship.

In 1819 John Potts and Charles Pitman were the preachers.

1820 Geo. Bangham and Chas. Pitman. Such was the prejudice of the people at that time, that occasionally on coming to the school-house they found the door locked against them. The eloquent Pitman on coming to fill a regular appointment at the little stone school-house near here, found the door locked, but he stood on the stone step in front and proclaimed a free salvation to those who had gathered to hear him. In the course of the year Mr. Pitman was taken from the circuit and appointed to New Brunswick. At the next Conference he returned twenty members to the circuit.

1821, Geo. Bangham and Wm. Leonard. 1822, Manning Force and Benj. Collins. Bloomfield had now become a Sunday afternoon appointment, once in two weeks. Preaching in different parts of the township.

1823, Benj. Collins and Jas. Atkins. This year is memorable in Bloomfield Methodism. The scattered little band concluded to build a house of worship. It was decided to locate near where Dr. Pitts now resides, and some preparation was made for the house. The position came from the society at Spring Garden (now Franklin), that if they would move the site a half a mile further north they would join them in the erection of the church.

This was accepted, and a small neat stone building, with frame gables was put up, finished and dedicated; largely through the personal efforts and labors of Rev. B. Collins.

1824, B. Weed and W. Cary. Though the preachers on this large circuit could only give one sermon in two weeks, there was preaching twice every Sabbath. The pulpit was filled by a corps of excellent local preachers. John Dow, Wm. Sanford, and the brothers John and Wm. Lee, and others.

1825, B. Weed and Anthony Atwood. At this session of Conference Paterson was made a station, and B. Weed moved his family from there to the western part of the township, now Montclair.

1826, David Bartine and Wm. A. Wiggins. In the month of September a camp-meeting was held about a mile east of the church, at which over 100 professed conversion.

About this time the Spring Garden Society built a small church, which left the Bloomfield church quite at one side of the congregation.

The Society this year had quite an addition in the excellent family of Nathaniel Colt, from Long Island, who gave two sons to the Methodist ministry—Chas. S., the present P. E. of the Paterson District; and the excellent and now sainted John.

In 1827 Belleville first appears as a charge, embracing Bloomfield and Caldwell. Wm. A. Wiggins preacher in charge. In the latter part of June another camp-meeting was held, the same as the first, attended with signal displays of divine grace.

In the month of May the church was greatly strengthened by the arrival from England of James Wilde and family, who were Wesleyan Methodists. He brought with him a number of his former employees and their families, who were also earnest Methodists.

In our sketch we necessarily give the early history of our church in Montclair; at that time it was all Bloomfield.

1828, Belleville: L. Winner. In the latter part of this year, mainly through the personal means and efforts of Mr. Wilde a commodious stone building was erected for the three-fold purpose of Sunday and day school and religious worship.

From this time the Sunday evening service was held here. 1829, L. Winner returned. And now among the local ranks appears, to the great delight of the people, Edward S. James, who subsequently became known and admired as Bishop James all over the continent, as well also in England and Europe.

Bloomfield first appears in the list of appointments in the minutes of the Annual Conference, and has been continued on more than fifty years. David Bartine and John L. Gilder preachers.

After a few months Brother Gilder was removed from the circuit to Newark to assist Rev. N. Porter, and E. L. James, twin brother of the late Bishop, was employed to fill the vacancy.

1831, L. M. Prettyman and E. Reed. This year Mr. Jas. Wilde presented to the trustees the plot of ground for church and parsonage, now Montclair, and a comfortable house was put up and ready for the preacher by the next Conference. Hitherto the preachers had lived wherever a house or part of a house could be found, often out of the way as well as inconvenient.

Bishop W. L. Harris the first bishop of the denomination who has honored Bloomfield with a visit) preached in the morning, from Jer. xxxi. 33, 34.

The afternoon services were held in the new chapel, all the rooms being thrown into one. The exercises were conducted by the superintendent, Mr. Fred. H. Carle, and were of an informal character, consisting of singing by the school, recitations of portions of Scripture by some of the younger scholars; short addresses by Presiding Elder J. H. Knowles, Rev. J. C. Ward, of Watessess, Messrs. Corby, Baker, Wilde and Sneliker, of Bloomfield; and Elkanah Drake, of Newark, and the dedicatory prayer by the Bishop.

In the evening was held a praise meeting, the topic of which was "Methodism—Past and Present." The hymns and prayers were a continued praise to the Heavenly Father for His goodness to this people. Rev. J. N. Crane, a native of Montclair, then a part of Bloomfield, read a paper on the history of Methodism in Bloomfield, which we are glad to present in full upon this page. Mr. Edward Wilde, by request of the pastor, gave some reminiscences of the Wilde family, who formerly were an important factor in the history of Montclair, having built and managed the factories there, and who were also of great help to the Methodist Church. He also spoke of the early life of the two James, the elder of whom afterward became the revered Bishop.

Bishop Harris' address was one of reminiscence of Methodism in the West. To allow these great successes to pass them up or omit their labors for the cause, but to be the spur to incite them to greater faithfulness, urging them to keep near the cross and near to the throne of God, giving Him the glory of all success.

1844, C. S. Vanelev. 1845-6, R. V. Westbrook. 1847-8, Nicholas Vansant. 1849-50, H. B. Beagle. 1851-2, J. I. Morrow. In 1853-4, Garneer R. Snyder. During

his pastorate the old building standing on this spot was erected. Great credit is due Brother Snyder and the heroic little band associated with him. In its erection it was deemed advisable to take down the old stone church, which up to that time had been used for preaching Sunday afternoons, and utilize the material in the new.

The new church remained in connection with the first church, now of Montclair, having afternoon preaching only. At the Conference of 1857 it was made a station by itself, taking properly the old name. The old church was called West Bloomfield.

W. W. Voorhes was the first pastor. 1858-9, R. V. Opdyke was the pastor, a fine scholar and an able minister of the gospel. But the church was small and weak, unable to support a married man without some assistance. It had a small appropriation from the Missionary Society for a few years. The church had to encounter the difficulties peculiar to new enterprises, more especially in the face of an old, wealthy and popular church. But it slowly increased in members, strength and influence, under the faithful labors of the good and true men appointed by the Conference as pastors.

In 1865 the parsonage was purchased, and enlarged and improved in 1873, making it a delightful home for the pastors. Two years ago the church was remodeled, improved and beautified inside and out at the cost of \$200. So that very little of the former building is recognizable. Bloomfield Methodism has furnished the following preachers: J. K. Shaw, the brothers John and James Buckley, J. N. Crane, and the brothers Chas. S. and John Coit, besides L. N. Feich and Edw. L. James, who went out from here. It will not be inappropriate to give notice the growth of the Methodist Episcopal Church for sixty years, the date of the first church. Sixty years ago the whole territory now embraced in the New Jersey and Newark Conferences was included in one Presiding Elder's district, with 14 charges, 25 preachers, and less than 10,000 members. Now, 2 Conferences, 8 districts, 288 ministers and 78,394 members, including probationers. Bergen Circuit, to which Bloomfield belonged sixty years ago, had three small churches, with a membership of about 900. Now 32 churches, valued at \$675,000, 26 parsonages, valued at \$139,000, and 11,160 members.

Bloomfield then had a small church, worth probably \$1,500, and a membership of 40. Now, 4 churches, worth \$40,000, 4 parsonages, valued at \$20,000, and a church membership of 650.

Bloomfield proper, when it became a distinct charge, had, as near as we can ascertain, between twenty-five and thirty members, and a plain church worth \$5,000.

Now, at the close of a quarter of a century, church property valued at \$30,000, with a membership of 263. And instead of a weak appointment, requiring and receiving from the Missionary Society, it has come to take rank among the best appointments in the Conference, contributing last year to the various benevolent societies, \$1,000.

In 1870 a society was formed at Watessess, in the southern part of the town, an off-shoot of Bloomfield Methodism, which has grown into a respectable appointment, having nearly 500 members, free from debt, and a comfortable parsonage.

Since the erection of the first church, nearly two generations have passed away. Of all the preachers who labored here since 1818 to 1842, only two are living (Anthony Atwood in 1825, and Benj. Day in 1826, and of those who have been stationed here, Bro. Geo. Swan, Hillard and Opdyke have entered upon their reward, and a large number from the laity have gone to join the Church triumphant in heaven.

Dedication of the New Sunday-School Rooms of the Park M. E. Church.

Last Sabbath was a red letter day in the history of the Methodist Church of Bloomfield. When the church building was re-dedicated about two years ago, it was thought all the improvements had been made on the church that could possibly be made for years to come. Another set on Sunday this new building, containing the needed Sunday-school, infant class, prayer meeting and class rooms, was dedicated. The new chapel is in the rear of the old church, and the best building, with a frontage of thirty-five feet on Park Street, and sixty-five feet deep. The windows are of stained glass, and the interior is finished in the best wood-work is finished in the natural color, the ceilings are high and neatly frescoed, the floors carpeted, and the seating is with chairs, and for their size these rooms are among the best arranged in the State for the uses intended. Those who were present who used to attend the old stone church on Park Street, will be surprised to find, but contrast that building with its one room, bare walls, windows and floors, and a membership of about twenty, with this beautiful and convenient church, workshop and its membership of about 225, and exclaim, "What hath God wrought!"

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